

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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TAGS:ETRD, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD SECRETARIAT PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPING
-- COUNTRY MEETINGS.

REF: A) STATE 90652 B) GENEVA 3089 C) GENEVA 3604

1. USG CONTINUES TO VIEW WITH CONCERN UNCTAD SECRETARIAT
SPONSORSHIP OF AND/OR PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS WHICH
ARE RELATED TO UNCTAD ACTIVITIES BUT WHICH ARE NOT OPEN
TO ALL UNCTAD MEMBER COUNTRIES.

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2. IN PARTICULAR, USG BELIEVES THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRY
MEETINGS DIRECTED AT DISCUSSION OF INDIVIDUAL COMMODITY
MEETINGS UNDER RESOLUTION 93(IV), TO THE EXTENT THAT
THEY RESULT IN DEVELOPMENT OF DOCTRINAIRE G-77
POSITIONS, ARE LIKELY TO IMPEDE THE SERIOUS CON-
SIDERATION OF COMMODITY TRADE PROBLEMS IN THESE MEETINGS,

WHICH WE UNDERSTAND TO BE THE PURPOSE OF THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCES. FURTHER, UNCTAD SECRETARIAT PARTICIPATION IN SUCH MEETINGS CREATES THE APPEARANCE OF AN EFFORT BY THE SECRETARIAT TO PROMOTE UNITED G-77 BACKING OF

THE SECRETARIAT'S OWN INTERPRETATION OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF 93(IV) WITH RESPECT TO INDIVIDUAL COMMODITY DISCUSSIONS.

3. THESE LONG STANDING USG CONCERNS WERE AGAIN BROUGHT INTO FOCUS BY REPORTS THAT MEETINGS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRY COTTON PRODUCERS ARE BEING HELD PRIOR TO FIRST UNCTAD PREPARATORY CONFERENCE ON COTTON (REFTELS). COTTON IS A COMMODITY OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND IMPORTANT PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES ARE FOUND BOTH WITHIN THE G-77 AND THE GROUP B. ON ECONOMIC GROUNDS AND HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE, WE WOULD EXPECT CONSIDERABLE DIVERGENCE OF OPINION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CONCERNING THE ISSUE OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON COTTON. THE ABOVE NOTED MEETINGS THEREFORE CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT AN EFFORT HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN TO PROMOTE DEVELOPING COUNTRY SUPPORT FOR UNCTAD PROPOSALS ON COTTON SOLELY ON THE GROUNDS OF G-77 SOLIDARITY.

4. USG APPRECIATES OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT WITH UNCTAD COTTON SPECIALISTS BEFORE UPCOMING PREPARATORY MEETINGS (REFTEL C) AND BELIEVES TALKS WITH CASTILLO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND BEN-AMOR WILL BE USEFUL BOTH TO USG AND TO SECRETARIAT. FACT THAT UNCTAD IS CONSULTING WITH USG, INDIVIDUALLY, HOWEVER, DOES NOT LESSEN OUR CONCERN REGARDING ABOVE NOTED MEETINGS. MISSION IS THEREFORE REQUESTED TO CONVEY OUR CONCERNS AS OUTLINED ABOVE TO UNCTAD SECRETARIAT, AND URGE THAT ANY FURTHER MEETINGS ON SUBJECTS RELATED TO INDIVIDUAL COMMODITY CONFERENCES BE OPEN TO ALL UNCTAD MEMBER COUNTRIES. CHRISTOPHER

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